THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of national universities

964. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recently recommended the setting up of 30 more national universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since examined the recommendations of the Commission and proposes to set up new universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when such national universities are likely to be set up and total investment to be made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In its Report to the Nation (2006), the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) recommended, as a long term objective, creation of up to 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard, with at least 10 such Universities, to begin with, in the next 3 years.

No decision has been taken on the recommendations made by NKC. However, it has been proposed to set up 16 Central Universities, one in each of the uncovered States, and 14 new Central universities aimed at world class standard.

Universities and colleges

965. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities and colleges affiliated to respective universities, working as on 31st December, 2007, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that 24 per cent of urban youth and only nine per cent of rural youth are enrolled in higher education;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of nearly 20,676 colleges in our country, only 100 colleges are put in Potential for Excellence by the UGC and only 3,411 have been graded by NAAC; and

(d) whether the NASCOM observation that 75 per cent of fresh engineering graduates are not qualified and equipped for the job requirements of employers, is correct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Based on the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 415 universities/institutions in the country as on 31.12.2007 and 6680 Colleges under Section 2(f) and 12 (B) of UGC Act, 1956, out of the 20,676 colleges in the country as on 31.3.2007.

(b) No such data is maintained in the Ministry. All universities and colleges, whether in urban, rural or other areas (semi-urban, hill, etc.) are poviding higher education in the country.

(c) The UGC has selected 97 colleges under the Scheme of Potential for Excellence during the X Plan. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an Inter University Centre, of UGC, has assessed and accredited 3523 Colleges as on 04.02.2008.

(d) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has raised the issue of lack of employability of engineering graduates in IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) Sectors. This is attributable, *inter alia,* to inadequate levels of communication and IT skills in engineering graduates.

Decrease in research scholars

†966. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of research scholars has come down due to not being provided better job opportunities to research scholars by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that acute shortage of teachers who lay the foundation of education, is also its major reason;

(c) if so, whether Government would implement any plan of action to develop the attitude among students towards higher education and to give more employment opportunities to highly educated students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Keeping in view the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in India, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted by the Central Government for basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force, has *inter-alia,* recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels. The recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted by Government, and the Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to implement the recommendations. The University Grants Commission has taken initiative for augmenting research and teaching resources of universities.

Intensification of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†967. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.